

Book Review: *The Day of the Labyrinth*¹

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This enchanting novel had me transfixed. My two day journey through this creative adventure engaged my whole being. As such It became an experience that involved my heart and all my emotions along with my mind. I loved how it kept beckoning me on and carried me through to the end.

The period of history set in the time around 400 A.D. was fascinating. It was a delight to meet mythical beings as well as angels, and all the diverse characters. The Minotaur is such a symbol of patriarchy for me. In the culture in which we live, these stories are validating and instructive in how to recognize these ever-present dominant tendencies. It is good to learn through the experiences of others how to cut the effects of those traits through ancestral lines.

Here we are in 2024. Every time we turn on the news we hear of nations rising up against oppressive regimes, people dying, refugees fleeing, and what remains are uninhabitable places. Into this current lived reality for all of us, this novel, “*The Day of the Labyrinth*,” is presented to our senses. What a gift! Is there a world religion that does not have at its heart a hope for harmony and peace brought about through love? When we connect with the beauty of the mountains and trees, the dolphins and the seas, the wind and the chickadees, is there not an awareness of how life could be? Could we live with enough and enjoy the love which surrounds us?

Many of us find ourselves between framing stories, the old has left a bitter taste and the new has not yet emerged, or has not yet proven to be any different. I invite you to come on a journey through this remarkable story. Although it happened years ago, the story is endlessly cyclical. It is then. It is now. It is them. It is us. How does a love that is the longing of every heart go so wrong? For that is what we all crave, isn't it? And therein lies the rub. What do we crave? At the very hidden core of our heart's motivation, can we stay on course to seek the way of sacrificial love? At a crucial junction in life, when our differing sets of relationships present us with two options, which will we choose? Will we be able to see the insidious thread that pulls at our craving and leads toward a trajectory that gets us off the course of love for others at the cost of ourselves?

The subtitle of the book is “*The Blind Seer and the Gift of Love*.” This is genius. For love to truly be a gift there can be no hidden agenda related to selfish needs and goals. What hope such a

¹ Roger Haydon Mitchell, *The Day of the Labyrinth* (Alresford, Hants: Top Hat Books, December 2023)
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setting brings to the world's current situation. This story has woven tremendous historical research with imaginative possibilities. The author has done a wonderful service to us by bringing to life a historical time and events that have perhaps until now only reached our minds. I was moved by the peace and shalom that was present in places. Yet there was intense sadness, tears, frustration. In the end I am left with the wonder and the hope of a love so intense that keeps on beckoning.